

# Safety

## Secretary Mineta Kicks off Indiana's "Click It or Ticket" Campaign

The nation's top transportation official was in Indiana in May 2002 to help promote Indiana's "Click it or Ticket" program. United States Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta visited the Indianapolis Motor Speedway to show his support for this new program (see photo below).

The "Click it or Ticket" program is a joint venture between the U.S. Department of Transportation and several state agencies. "Click it or Ticket" is a safety campaign in which the U.S. DOT works with state and local law enforcement agencies to help increase safety belt use.

The "Click it or Ticket" program comes on the heels of recently released national statistics that showed 42,000 people were killed and 5.3 million were injured at a cost of \$230.6 billion in 2000. The



total estimated economic loss to Indiana for motor vehicle crashes is more than \$2.7 billion annually.

The "Click it or Ticket" program is designed to increase safety belt use, which will help prevent serious injury or death. More than 700 signs were installed along Indiana's roadways to remind drivers of the law.

Indiana introduced its first safety belt law in mid-1987 with a secondary law implying that an officer could not stop a motor vehicle simply because the occupants were not wearing their safety belts. That year, just 21 percent of Hoosiers buckled up, and 1,056 were killed in crashes. In 1998, the law was upgraded to a primary law.

The current law continues to exempt pick-up trucks, which leads to significantly different results in safety belt usage.

## Safety Belt Usage (2002)

In February 2003, the Governor's Council on Impaired and Dangerous Driving released promising figures on safety belt usage. Safety officials say 2002's record-low number of car crash deaths—779—is a direct result of more Hoosiers wearing safety belts.

A survey shows that 75 percent of Hoosiers now wear safety belts when they are in the front seat of a vehicle, up from 51 percent just five years ago.

Indiana fatalities have never been this low, at least not since the federal government started tracking them in the early 1980s. It is the first time the number has fallen below 800, and it is a significant drop from the 909 fatalities in 2001.

In June 2002, Purdue University's Center for the Advancement of Transportation Safety conducted its 17th Roadside Observation Survey of Safety Belt Usage in Indiana.

<http://www.in.gov/dot>

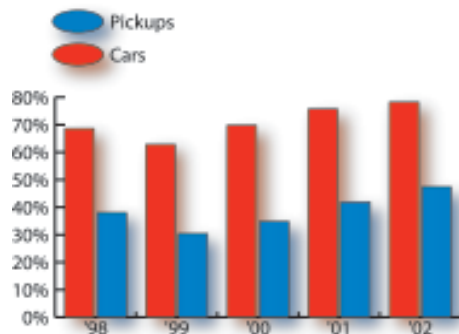


## Indiana's Fatality Rate and Alcohol Fatality Rate

The findings indicated that the usage rate for front seat occupants of all passenger vehicles had increased from 67.4 percent in September 2001 to 72.2 percent through June 2002.

The chart below shows the results of Purdue's studies between 1998 and June 2002. Safety belt usage in pick-ups contributed to the improvement, rising 14.6 percent in two years.

### Safety Belt Usage 1998 to June 2002



Source: June 2002 Roadside Observation Survey of Safety Belt Usage in Indiana, Purdue University

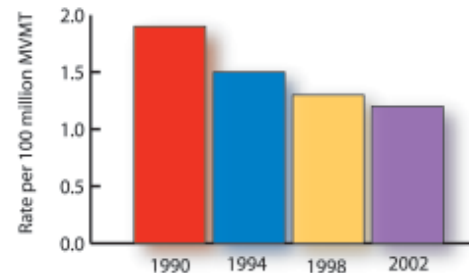
Indiana continues to fall below the national average for fatal crash rates. According to the Indiana Governor's Council on Impaired and Dangerous Driving's 2001 Annual Report, Indiana's average is 1.4 deaths per 100 million motor vehicle miles traveled (MVMT), compared to 1.5 per 100 million MVMT nationwide.

Unfortunately, one out of every four fatal crashes in Indiana is attributed to alcohol use. Alcohol-related fatalities have remained at the 0.33 per 100 million MVMT level for several years.

The number of injuries per 100 million MVMT dropped slightly. Indiana's goal of 103 injuries was met in 2002. The goal for 2005 has been set at 95.7 per 100 million MVMT.

While the number of licensed drivers and the number of registered vehicles have increased over the last 10 years, serious injuries

### Indiana Fatalities per 100 Million Motor Vehicle Miles Traveled



Source: Governor's Council on Impaired and Dangerous Driving 2001 Annual Report

resulting from crashes have decreased by 17.4 percent and total crashes have decreased by 2.5 percent.

The chart above tracks the number of fatalities per 100 million MVMT in Indiana from 1990 to the projected figures for 2002.

## Our people, Our values

### Tommy Nantung Research Division



Tommy Nantung works as a section manager for Pavement, Materials and Accelerated Testing in INDOT's Research Division.

He earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Parahyangan Catholic University of Indonesia, a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Michigan and a doctorate from Purdue University. He has served INDOT for nine and a half years.

Tommy's favorite part of the job is solving problems in transportation through research projects.

"I would like the public to know that we are working for them to find the best solution in transportation that is the most effective and efficient," Tommy said.

